

Addendum to Final Statement of Reasons

1. 765(e)(1) through (3) refers to laboratories and tests “approved by the Department”.

An “approved laboratory” means a laboratory accepted by the Department to run tests for the detection of *Brucella ovis*. Approved labs are generally State, Federal, or University laboratories meeting minimum qualifications established by the USDA for livestock disease control and eradication programs. State and Federal livestock disease programs work almost exclusively with approved laboratories. Private practicing veterinarians are trained to send test samples to approved laboratories for livestock disease testing.

“Approved test” means a test commonly used and accepted throughout the sheep industry for the identification of brucellosis. Approval or disapproval of a test is based on data reproducibility, suitability, sensitivity and specificity for detecting a particular disease. All tests used for livestock disease programs are approved by the State and/or USDA.

2. 765(g) establishes the procedures when a ram tests positive for *Brucella ovis*. Subsection (1) requires the ram to be held in isolation or be removed from the flock. “Isolation” means taking the positive ram from the breeding flock and relocating him to another location as to prevent physical contact with the remaining flock. The ram is kept away from the remaining sheep to prevent the spread of infection until a second test can be conducted to determine if the animal is indeed positive or negative for having the disease.

“Removed from the flock” refers to permanently taking the animal out of the flock. In most instances this animal will be taken to slaughter. The Department is making this an option to isolating and retesting the animal because there may be many initially positive animals, and the producer may not have the resources to retest all of these animals. In this case, slaughter is the most economical option.

3. Section 765(c) requires rams six (6) months of age and older in flock of sheep to complete two (2) negative *Brucella ovis* tests to qualify as a Free Flock. If a ram tests positive, the requirements of subsection (g) must be met. The remaining rams in the flock will essentially wait until this positive ram either retests negative within 30 to 60 days or is removed from the flock. If the ram retests negative (considered the first negative test) within the specified time, the ram can be returned to the flock. The flock can now continue the certification process, test negative a second time to complete the requirement of two negative tests with 45-120 days for Free Flock status.

4. Section 765. *Brucella ovis* Free Flock Certification Requirements references Food and Agricultural Code section 9574 in error. The Department is removing this citation from this section.